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The Thirteenth of April, Nineteen Hundred and One.

Another red letter day has been added to those in the calendar of the international peace movement. Hereafter the 13th of April, 1901, will, along with the 24th of August, 1898, and the 18th of May, 1899, rank as one of the great days in the history of civilization.

On the first of these dates the Russian government, through the late Count Mouravieff, Minister of Foreign Affairs, handed to each of the foreign diplomatic representatives at St. Petersburg a lithograph copy of the now famous Rescript proposing a conference in the interests of "the maintenance of general peace and a possible reduction of the excessive armaments" of the powers. On the second date the one hundred delegates appointed by twenty-six powers, the most distinguished assemblage of governmental representatives in human history, met at The Hague and opened the Peace Conference, the chief result of whose ten weeks of deliberation was the convention providing for a permanent international court of arbitration.

Nearly two years have passed since the Hague Conference closed its labors. During that time one after another of the twenty-six powers has ratified the convention and appointed its members of the court, until now only China, Turkey and Luxemburg remain which have not ratified it.

On the 13th of April just passed, Dr. W. H. De Beaufort, the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom the convention makes the president of the administrative council of the court, sent official notice by telegraph and cable to all of the twenty-six powers informing them that the court was definitively constituted. This was the final act in the work of the Hague Conference, as regards this particular convention.

This message, probably the most important one of a political nature ever sent over the wires, created no commotion; in fact, was entirely unnoticed by most people. Some of the newspapers gave an inch to it, with an additional inch or so of headlines. Many of them made no reference whatever to it. If it had had its deserts, according to its importance in the progress of civilization, the whole front page of every great newspaper in Christendom would have been devoted to the subject; the pictures of the members of the court, more than fifty of them already appointed, would have been given, with some account of their character and positions in their several countries; the importance of the court would have been set out in strong terms, and the interesting and many-sided movement which has led up to it would have been described in its salient features.

But though not half the space usually devoted to the most contemptible prize-fight was given by the press to Mr. De Beaufort's announcement, the work has been done, and the world will in time have the incalculable benefits of the new institution which is henceforth to be the leading political instrument in the development of a sane and rational international life. In this there is abundant reason for rejoicing on the part of those who see beneath the surface the ceaseless activity of those silent, powerful forces, little disturbed by the surface commotions, which are steadily and surely bringing in the reign of goodwill and universal peace.

We begin the new century with another large and imperishable foundation-stone well laid beneath us. This should give us courage for larger and more earnest efforts hereafter. The permanent international court of arbitration, though now in actual existence, to continue, we believe, as long as human society lasts, has not yet done any service. One of these days we shall see the new invention tried. We are eager to see how it will work; but, however successful the first trial may be, it will need the active and united support of all the friends of peace for